

# JAPAN NOT WORRYING OVER U.S., SAYS PROF. FRANK LEE MARTIN AFTER A YEAR SPENT IN TOKIO

University of Missouri Journalism Teacher Tells of Leave of Absence Spent in the Orient—Says Japanese Do Not Want a War With the United States and That Their Navy Is in Poor Condition—Censorship of Newspapers Strict—Police Prevent Publication of Interview With High Government Officials—People Are Progressive.

That the apparent belief on the part of a great many Americans that a war between the United States and Japan will come soon is a remote possibility; that Japan is not keeping vigil upon the United States so much as upon the movements of China and that the Japanese are a versatile and progressive people, is the opinion expressed by Prof. Frank L. Martin of the School of Journalism, who returned Tuesday with his family from a stay in Japan that lasted over a period of fifteen months.

In May, 1915, Professor Martin was given a leave of absence from the University. He went direct to Tokio, where he was employed as news editor of the Japan Advertiser, an English newspaper published in Tokio. While in the Far East, Professor Martin made close observation of the habits and customs of the Japanese and especially has he, in the position that he has held, noticed the main traits of Japanese journalism and given considerable time to the study of the political questions that surround that country.

## Changes Opinion of Japan.

When asked by a Missourian reporter to state in a summary his opinion of Japan, Professor Martin said:

"I have returned home with a somewhat jumbled idea of those people because, as many are liable to do, I have changed my opinion of them so often. I have decided in my mind that they were uncivilized and crude, then I have thought that they were a stupid, half-cultured lot of beings, and then, when I saw something more of them, the fact that they were a wide-awake, resourceful and thoughtful people has come to me. And whatever else may be said about the Japanese, whether it be complimentary or not, it must be admitted that they are a wonderful people and that they have made progress almost inconceivable within the last half century."

"Do you think that the Japs are watching the movements of this country and that they are thinking of making war upon us at some time after the European struggle is over?" Professor Martin was asked.

## "Japs Are Not Watching America."

"I do not," he stated. "There seems to be a feeling among a great many people here that the Japanese are standing ready to grab at the throat of the United States but I think there never was an idea so mistaken as that. During my stay in Tokio not once have I heard a word of ill feeling expressed against the people here. On the other hand, however, the Japanese are paying a great deal of attention to what the Chinese are accomplishing and they are thinking a great deal as to just what part the Japanese will play in the future political status of that country."

"Now, the only thing that I can think of that would prompt a war between the United States and Japan would be for us to interfere in the case of Japanese intervention in China, but I cannot imagine our soldiers getting down in the trenches for the sake of the yellow men. I think the whole trouble lies in the fact that the Japanese have us bluffed. When a minor controversy between the United States and Japan arises people here make a lot more over it than the Japanese do."

## "Japs Don't Worry Over California."

"For in stance, when the immigration discussion arose in California several years ago, Japan didn't make as much out of the affair as we did, and now you hear very little said about it over there. But they knew that we were excited over the matter and they use these situations to get about what they want at our hands."

"Japan has a fairly large army, and, I think, a very efficient one. Her navy, however, is at a low ebb. As we were putting out of harbor on our way home a Russian lieutenant pointed out to me what he said was the largest battleship that Japan had. It was fully armed, he said, but they dared not fire a gun from her broadside for fear the ship would sink. So that seems to be the condition of Japan's fighting equipment on the water but aside from all these facts she could not think of going to war with the United States or any other country for the simple reason that the country is 'broke.' She could not finance a war if she wanted to because there is no place to borrow money. The country has nothing to



Prof. Frank L. Martin.

offer for security for borrowed funds and since the agricultural regions are not resourceful there is no way to raise the money at home."

## "Japan Takes Little Part in War."

Professor Martin said that with the exception of assisting the Allies in the German blockade of the seas and the taking of the South Pacific Islands, Japan was taking no part just now in the big European combat.

When asked about the moral status of the Japanese, Professor Martin said the standard was very low, but that the conditions were improving to a large degree. He said the statistics of the country on suicides show that Japan ranks well at the top and that the cause of this seemed mainly to be on account of family troubles. A fist fight, he says, is something that seldom happens among the Japanese.

The men may become intoxicated and browse around the street quarrelling at each other but never engage in personal encounters. Professor Martin said that a negro is something seldom seen in Japan. During his entire stay in that country he saw only one and that was an old negro cook who had come there with a family from New York.

The Japan Advertiser, of which Professor Martin was a part during the time he was in Japan, is operated by P. W. Fleisher, a Philadelphian. Although a large per cent of its readers are Englishmen who are accustomed to English newspaper methods, the Advertiser is run on distinctly American lines of newspaper making and, according to Professor Martin, the publication is a success.

"Although the Advertiser is published in a city of approximately 2,000,000 people, it is essentially a small city daily on account of the fact that it has, of necessity, a limited reading public. Mr. Fleisher, the editor, is not only a high class man in a personal way but his ability as a newspaper man ranks among the best in any country. Because of the fact that so many of his readers are English people, it was once thought that purely English newspaper style was the better plan for the Advertiser but in the last few years American methods have been adopted and the change has been highly successful."

## "Paper Is Americanized."

"The make-up of the paper is Americanized, the headlines are written very much on the Missourian style and the English readers of the Advertiser like the idea. The Advertiser has operated in competition with eight or ten English newspapers and its su-

premacy is indicated in the fact that it has more than double the circulation of any other publication in the far East with the probable exception of Manila.

"I said that the bulk of the readers of the Advertiser were English, but not all. There are also a large number of the better class of the Japanese who read the paper, too, because these people want to know what the foreign countries are doing. It seems that when the Japanese does anything, the first thought that dawns upon them is: 'I wonder what the United States thinks of this. I wonder what England, or France or Germany has to say about it.' And so these readers take the Advertiser to get the foreign viewpoint upon national issues."

The characteristic of the Japanese press that struck me more forcibly than perhaps any other one factor was the rigid censorship that prevails there. In the office of the Advertiser are four Japanese interpreters whose work it is to look over the Japanese papers and clip out the articles that are of particular import for reprint. But even though a certain article appears in some Japanese paper, the Advertiser may receive orders from the police department to stop further publication of the article and the order must be obeyed.

## "Police Censorship Strict."

"Should anything appear in our paper that the police considered objectionable it meant that our paper would be humiliated by an entire confiscation of the issue of that day and that we would be subject to a fine or imprisonment."

"Suppose that the Premier, the highest official under the Mikado, gives out to an Advertiser reporter a statement regarding some political or international question. Although the interview comes from the highest official in government circles, its publication can be, and often is, prevented by an order of the police. The police act in this matter upon their

own initiative. Think of a policeman countermarching the publication of a statement voluntarily offered by a high government official and you have the absurdity of the situation. Such censorship goes against the grain with a newspaper man who has been accustomed to freedom, but in Japan it is a matter of obeying the orders or paying a fine and lying in jail. In no other country that I know of is the censorship so severe as in Japan, but it must not be condemned entirely, for it is a thing to be admired in some cases."

"What do you consider the main difference between the Japanese newspaper and the press of this country? And tell me some of the characteristics of the Japanese idea of the news story and of newspaper making in general," the reporter asked Professor Martin.

## "Japanese Press Is Unreliable."

"The most important, in fact the most striking difference, between our newspapers and the Japan press is the absolute uncertainty of the things you read in the papers there. Accuracy, the importance of driving home the facts in a news story is a thing that is almost foreign to the papers of Japan. In fact this condition has not prevailed so very long in our own papers, and anything with a semblance of accuracy in the Japanese press could not be expected this early. The idea of modern journalism is practically in infancy in that country and it may be said that the tendency to reveal all of the truth in news articles is becoming more evident."

"It may appear in a Japan paper that some high official has eloped with his servant girl and the news will be elaborated upon extensively. Upon investigation, however, it will be found that the report is unfounded and that the story originated by someone's cook telling the neighbor's servant, the neighbor's servant tells her mistress, the mistress tells her neighbor and so on until the papers get the news. The report is published as the

truth and no effort is made by the reporter to dig down to the facts surrounding the case."

## "Little Interest in Advertising."

Professor Martin said that the Japanese are very little interested in advertising and as a result the papers found it necessary to subsist mainly on paid circulation. Since the opening of the European struggle all the German shopkeepers have been driven out of Japan, except in detention camps. Tourists have been coming to the country in fewer numbers and business has been handicapped to a noticeable extent, according to Professor Martin.

"When the Japan shopkeeper inserts an advertisement in the paper he pays no attention to circulation. What he is interested in is selling his wares in any way he can. He has not been taught the value of checking up on advertising results. It may be that the merchant never looks at his own advertisement and he is very little interested whether or not it even appears. The bulk of the advertising done is by railroad lines, shipping companies and retail shops."

"Practically everything sold from the Japanese shops is on a bargain basis. If a merchant offers you a vase for ten yen, you may, by a 'jewing' process be able to get the vase for four, five or six yen. Thus you may see the instability of the business methods of the Japanese merchant."

"I enjoyed my stay in Tokio. I now have a broader viewpoint of the conditions surrounding that country, than I ever had. I have brought back with me a number of souvenirs which I will use in school this year. But I am glad to be back." Professor Martin concluded. "There is nothing like home you know."

## Dr. Ramsay Moves to Keiser Avenue.

Dr. Robert L. Ramsay of the English department of the University has moved from Allen place to 1320 Keiser avenue.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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### HOUSES FOR RENT

WANTED, by University Instructor: Four or five furnished room apartment. Address Jauncey, 811 Virginia avenue, phone 404-Red. J-304

FOR RENT: A 9-room house, all modern conveniences. Will rent for \$30 per month. 1171-Green, 209 Thilly avenue. P-301tf

FOR RENT: A 7-room modern furnished house with bath. Barn and chicken house, large yard, 5 blocks from White Campus, 1807 University. Phone 1208-White. P-301-302

For Rent: One 12 room, modern, up-to-date house. Phone 74. W. B. Nowell. N. 298-303

For Rent: A seven room house at 315 South Fifth st. Modern in every respect. Phone 356 Black. C. 288 tf.

For Rent: Partly furnished house at 402 Matthews St. 10 rooms and two baths. Convenient for both campuses. Ready September 1st. May look at it now. Terms reasonable. S. 297 tf.

For Rent: A six-room house, hot water heat, modern in every way. Corner of Hudson and College Avenue. Phone 180. W. 296 tf.

For Rent: A ten room house at 403 Matthews street. Can be used either as a flat or dwelling. For particulars phone 421. B-235-tf.

For Rent: New four or five room apartments in exclusive neighborhood, opposite agricultural farm. Heat and water furnished. Barn or garage can be furnished. \$15 College Ave. Phone 1179 Green. C. 285-211.

For Rent: After September 1, five room cottage in East Highlands, city water, wires for lights, large garden and pasture. W. McN. Miller, Phone 707 or 802. M. 288 tf.

### FOR SALE

For Sale: In next few days, beds, springs, mattresses, rugs, dresser, chairs, rockers, and other household

goods. 605 Sanford street. Phone 584 Green. W. 302-tf

For Sale: Student tables, iron beds, rugs, refrigerator at 604 Conley. K. 299-303.

For sale: At 205 College avenue, a sideboard and two extension tables and a few pieces of furniture. Call 973. L-301

For Sale: Coal range, dining table and chairs, student table and a bed. Call at 493 College Avenue. Phone 1148 Red. C. 298-302

For Sale: Mahogany settee or chair, dining-room suite, bed, chiffonier. 27 Allen Place. Phone 1125 Black. T. 298-302

For Sale: Davenport, beds, tables, chairs, rugs, ice-box, dining-table, etc. Call in morning. 713 Gentry Place. Phone 715 Red. S. 296 tf.

For Sale: Lot, 50 by 135 on Willis Avenue; paved street and granitoid sidewalk. Phone 876. Q 290-tf

For Sale: A genuine Navajo Indian blanket. Cost \$85, will sell for \$50. Apply 111 Cousins St. F. 182 tf.

### HOUSEHOLD GOODS

For Sale: Household goods; fumed oak, leather upholstered chairs, bed room furniture, student tables, kitchen and dining room furniture; laundry articles, pillows and bed-clothing all kinds; two double-deck beds. Owner leaving town. 606 S. Fifth street. Phone 1264 Green. A. 287 tf.

### MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: A colored house-girl. References required. Mrs. Wheat, 713 Missouri avenue. Phone 355. W. 305.

Wanted: Young man desires employment afternoons and Saturdays. Has had good business experience in office work and as salesman. Experienced in handling correspondence. Operates typewriter, takes dictation. For information, address E. Hildreth, 1638 Norton, Kansas City, Mo. N. 302-304.

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## The Daily Missourian

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